Biography of Vanlal Tluonga Bapui

Vanlal Tluonga Bapui, son of Rev. Ngulkung Bapui and Mrs. Dartlingzo, was born on 14 November 1944 at Boro Muolkoi Village, Dima Hasao, Assam.

Early Education

He studied up to Class 3 at Boro Muolkoi J.B. L.P. School, and later continued Class 4 at Government High School, Haflong in 1954. At the end of 1953, he appeared for the scholarship examination and performed well, receiving a scholarship from 1954 until he completed Matriculation (Class X). He passed the Matriculation examination in March 1962, securing Second Division.

He pursued Pre-University studies at Haflong College, and later completed his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in 1967. While in college, he worked during the day and attended classes at night, supporting himself financially.

Teaching and Early Career

In 1962, he worked as a teacher at Doiheng L.P. School.

In 1963, he joined as an LDA (Lower Division Assistant) at the Police Office.

In 1967, he served as a teacher at Muolhoi Christian High School.

In 1970, he joined the newly established CHT Synod High School, where he worked faithfully until 2000.

In September 2000, he became a Mission Enabler under the Council for World Mission, working with the Congregational Federation of the United Kingdom, alongside his wife. After returning in 2004, he was appointed Director of the Mobile Theological School by the Synod and began receiving a Synod pension in 2006.

Higher Education

B.T. (Bachelor of Teaching), Gauhati University – 1974–75, Second Class, Tenth Position.

Master of Christian Education (M.C.E.), U.S.A. – 1984–85, Grade A.

Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.), Serampore College, West Bengal – 1993, Second Class, Grade B.

Leadership and Contributions

He was one of the founding leaders of Rural Development Services (RDS) in collaboration with CBCNEI.

He served as Board Director and Office Bearer of both RDS and NEICORD.

During the 2003 ethnic conflict, he distributed financial assistance to families in Boro Muolkoi and New Joar, Mahur, whose houses were burnt.

He served as Secretary of the Hmar Literature Society, and is now the President of the Hmar Literature Society in Assam and North Cachar Hills.

Writing and Literary Achievements

He has authored several important books, including:

- Hmar-English Dictionary

- Hmar Grammar

- Hmar-Hmar-English Dictionary

- Hmars in Assam

- Oral Traditions of the Hmars

- India Ram le Ram Dang Thusimhai

- Faihriem Pahnam Chanchin le Tawng Suina

- India Ram Thusim Thlang Khâwm le Hrilfiebu (Commentary)

- Thupuongsuo (Revelation)

- Matthai (Matthew)

- Zawlneitehai (Prophets)

Because of his literary contributions, the Government of Assam granted him a Literary Pension for life on 15 August 2006.

Bible Translation Work

2018-10 : Dimasa New Testament, Psalm and Proverb Translation.

2011-18 : Hmar Study Bible.

2020-Present : Dimasa Old Testament Project.

Recognition

Honoured with a Doctor of Literature (D. Litt, Honoris Causa) by Christian Deemed University, Florida, USA.

Serving as Language Consultant for the Government of Assam.

Presented academic papers at Gauhati University, NEHU, Dibrugarh University, Manipur University, Tezpur University, and several foreign universities.

Worked with:

- Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore

- Bhasa (Sahitya Academic Branch)

- Assam Institute of Scheduled Tribes and Castes

- State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)

Legacy

Vanlal Tluonga Bapui holds the distinction of being the second person from Boro Muolkoi Village to pass the Matriculation examination. His lifelong dedication to education, literature, theology, and translation work has left a lasting impact on the Hmar people and beyond.

Written by: Zion Vankal